

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Richard W. Wieking
Clerk

450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.522.2000

June 18th, 2007

Eastern District of California
4-200 Robert T. Matsui
501 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-7300

Re: MDL 05-1699 In re Bextra and Celebrex Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation

Title of Case(s)

Bertha Townsend, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc. et al.

Your Case Number(s)

C.A.No. 2:06-2780

Dear Clerk:

Enclosed is a certified copy of the order from the Judicial panel on Multidistrict Litigation transferring the above entitled action to the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division. The case has been assigned to the Honorable Phyllis J. Hamilton for coordinated or consolidated pretrial processing pursuant to 28 USC §1407.

Please forward the **original record and a certified copy of the docket entries** in the case listed above along with the enclosed copy of this transmittal letter to:

United States District Court
Northern District of California
450 Golden Gate Avenue, P.O. Box 36060
San Francisco, CA 94102
Attn: Rufino Santos

If the case is an electronic case filing please do one of the following: 1) e-mail the PDF documents, as separate PDF files, including a PDF copy of the docket sheet to SFmdl_clerk@cand.uscourts.gov, 2) provide us with a temporary log in and a password to directly access your database and to expedite the downloading of the PDF files we need and/or require, or, 3) if you prefer, on a disc. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,
Richard W. Wieking, Clerk

/s/

By: Simone Voltz
Deputy Clerk

Encl.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

JUN 15 2007

ATTEST *[Signature]*
FOR THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATIONJUDICIAL PANEL ON
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

JUN 15 2007

FILED
CLERK'S OFFICE**DOCKET NOS. 1657 & 1699****BEFORE THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION****IN RE VIOXX MARKETING, SALES PRACTICES AND PRODUCTS
LIABILITY LITIGATION****IN RE BEXTRA AND CELEBREX MARKETING, SALES PRACTICES AND
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION****BEFORE WM. TERRELL HODGES, CHAIRMAN, D. LOWELL JENSEN, J.
FREDERICK MOTZ,* ROBERT L. MILLER, JR.,* KATHRYN H. VRATIL,
DAVID R. HANSEN AND ANTHONY J. SCIRICA, JUDGES OF THE PANEL****ORDER OF TRANSFER WITH SIMULTANEOUS
SEPARATION, REMAND AND TRANSFER**

Presently before the Panel are motions, pursuant to Rule 7.4, R.P.J.P.M.L., 199 F.R.D. 425, 435-36 (2001), by plaintiffs in fifteen actions listed on Schedule A seeking to vacate the Panel's orders conditionally i) transferring these actions involving the prescription medication Vioxx (manufactured by Merck & Co., Inc. (Merck)) to the Eastern District of Louisiana for inclusion in the Section 1407 proceedings occurring there in MDL-1657; ii) simultaneously separating and remanding claims in these actions relating to prescription medications Bextra and Celebrex (manufactured by Pfizer Inc. (Pfizer)) to their transferor districts; and iii) transferring the resulting Bextra/Celebrex actions to the Northern District of California for inclusion in MDL-1699 pretrial proceedings. Defendants Pfizer, Pharmacia Corp., G.D. Searle LLC and Merck oppose these motions and urge effectuation of the Panel's orders.

On the basis of the papers filed and hearing session held (without oral argument), the Panel finds that these actions involve common questions of fact with i) actions in MDL-1657 previously transferred to the Eastern District of Louisiana, and ii) actions in MDL-1699 similarly centralized in the Northern District of California. The Panel further finds that transfer for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings in those two districts will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the just and efficient conduct of the litigation. Transfer is also appropriate for reasons expressed by the Panel in its original orders directing centralization in these two dockets. In MDL-1657, the Panel held that the Eastern District of Louisiana was a proper Section 1407 forum for actions relating to Vioxx. *See In re Vioxx Products Liability Litigation*, 360 F.Supp.2d 1352 (J.P.M.L. 2005). Likewise, the Panel held that the Northern District of California was a proper Section 1407 forum for actions relating to Bextra and/or Celebrex. *See In re Bextra and Celebrex Marketing, Sales Practices*

* Judges Motz and Miller took no part in the decision of this matter.

I hereby certify that the annexed
is a true and correct copy
of the original on file in my office.

ATTEST:

RICHARD W. WIEKING
Clerk, U.S. District Court
Northern District of California

By *[Signature]*
Deputy Clerk

Date 6/19/07

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and Products Liability Litigation, 391 F.Supp.2d 1377 (J.P.M.L. 2005). Pending motions to remand these actions to state court can, in appropriate parts, be presented to and decided by each of the transferee courts. *See, e.g., In re Ivy*, 901 F.2d 7 (2d Cir. 1990); *In re Prudential Insurance Company of America Sales Practices Litigation*, 170 F.Supp.2d 1346, 1347-48 (J.P.M.L. 2001).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407, these actions are transferred to the Eastern District of Louisiana and, with the consent of that court, assigned to the Honorable Eldon E. Fallon for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings occurring there in MDL-1657 – *In re Vioxx Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*. The claims relating to Pfizer's Bextra and Celebrex prescription medications are separated and remanded, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407(a), to their transferor districts.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407, the resulting actions involving claims relating to Bextra and Celebrex are transferred to the Northern District of California and, with the consent of that court, assigned to the Honorable Charles R. Breyer for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings occurring there in MDL-1699 – *In re Bextra and Celebrex Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*.

FOR THE PANEL:



Wm. Terrell Hodges
Chairman

SCHEDULE A

MDL-1657 -- In re Vioxx Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation

MDL-1699 -- In re Bextra and Celebrex Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation

Northern District of Alabama

William D. McCluskey, etc. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:07-232

Eastern District of California

Carol Ann Davies, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:06-2768

Lois Hornsby, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:06-2776

Bertha Townsend, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:06-2780

Arthur Bluett, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:06-2787

Lisa Mathews, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:06-2807

Geneva Styles, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:06-2812

Ali Muhilddine, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:06-2814

Elizabeth A. Cochran v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:06-2817

Kevin L. Chaney v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:06-2826

Wendel Vantine, etc. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:06-2851

Barry Dohner, etc. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:06-2853

Jerry Strange v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:06-2875

Southern District of Illinois

Robert J. Smith, Jr., etc. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 3:06-964

Wilburn Williamson, etc. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al., C.A. No. 3:06-1023